

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

December 2002

Andy Barked

Submitted by: Andrew Pitcher

If you hadn't heard by now, AndyDog and I passed the FEMA Type II test on Sunday in Memphis, TN. AndyDog did a nice job and I am very proud of him.

Having exams the day after the testing, I had sent the test application and thought this is probably the dumbest thing I have done in my life and there is plenty of competition for that title! Well, even it was, it was worth it!

I had received the latest Dog Talk newsletter before we left. Any complacency was gone when I read the following: We have a new concrete recycling plant in Memphis and because of it have the use of a rubble pile of approximately 2 to 3 acres and 50 to 75 feet high.!!! (gulp.)

We flew in on Friday. I borrowed Zima's search vest for AndyDog from Monica. With a little adjustment he squeezed into it! AndyDog was well behaved on the plane, getting lots of special attention from the flight crew and even being brought up to the first class section! A Golden Retriever search dog has got to be the ultimate chick magnet!

It was snowing in Memphis when we arrived. It continued to snow the rest of the day. At least we could relax, the evaluators and the organizers were out working on getting the rubble pile ready. A trailer load of pallets were to be added. At our Friday evening briefing, with a wonderful BBQ dinner, we were told that the snow had contributed to the madde conditions the most treacherous rubble I've seen. according to one evaluator (gulp.)

Testing on Saturday went well. The weather was completely different, the sun was out, it was warming up and all that the remained of the snow, was ... mud. There were ten dogs testing, mostly Labs, but also some mixed breeds and a Border Collie. Deborah Goodman and I were the only civilian dog handlers. A TV news crew were out there filming so we could fully maximize the audience when our dogs embarrassed us! Hopefully there is a way to clean off dog lick from the video camera lens! AndyDog got through all the elements of obedience, agility, directions, and the bark barrel without a problem. All the work training for control really paid off. Three dogs made it to the rubble on Saturday. Andy was one of them. Unfortunately, he never did get into the scent and didn't find the victims, so we had to do the whole thing over again on Sunday. Again he completed all the elements without any problems, and went back up to the rubble. This time he found the scent source quickly and altered. Having found the first victim, he was pumped to find the next one. The second victim was hidden under pallets, which is something we have had trouble with in the past. However, AndyDog found them quickly and was actually almost stuck trying to crawl into the pallets to get to the victim. I'm sure he would have searched for more, but that was all that was needed. Of course we didn't get told that the dog had success, until after the testing was fully complete, so there is an element of uncertainty, especially after the third dog altered somewhere else. However, we did fine. Out of the ten dogs testing only three passed, which doesn't seem likely many, but the standards are high.

So, thank you to everyone who has helped along the way. Everyone who has been pawed at; had dog food split over them; hid in a cramped, dark, unpleasant rubble; setup equipment; or given advice and support. THANK YOU. It really is a team effort.



All Tied Up

Submitted by: Rick Klein

Figure 8 Follow Through

The Figure 8 Follow Through knot is used to secure your rappel rope around an anchor with no open end. A structural column between two floors of a building would be an example of an anchor point with no open end. Make sure to inspect your anchor point for sharp or rough edges and provide protection for your rope when necessary. Protection used can be a piece of canvas or old fire hose.

- A. Begin by forming a loose figure 8 knot in your rope with enough tail rope left to go around the anchor point and still be able to follow back through. Sometimes this means that several feet of rope needs to be left at the tail rope end. Place the tail end around the anchor.
- B. Feed the tail end of the rope back into the figure 8 making sure to follow every bend and turn.
- C. The tail end of the rope should exit beside the part of the rope that will be used for rappelling (standing part).
- D. Dress the knot so that it forms a neat and uniform knot. Follow up with an overhand safety tied with the tail end that is left. Should be about 18".

Always have a partner (the human type, not your canine) double check your anchor and safety knots before rappelling. To date, there is no documented proof that this knot has been untied by any canine partners. Chewing through it may be possible, so make sure that your canine partner still loves you before you go out on rappel!

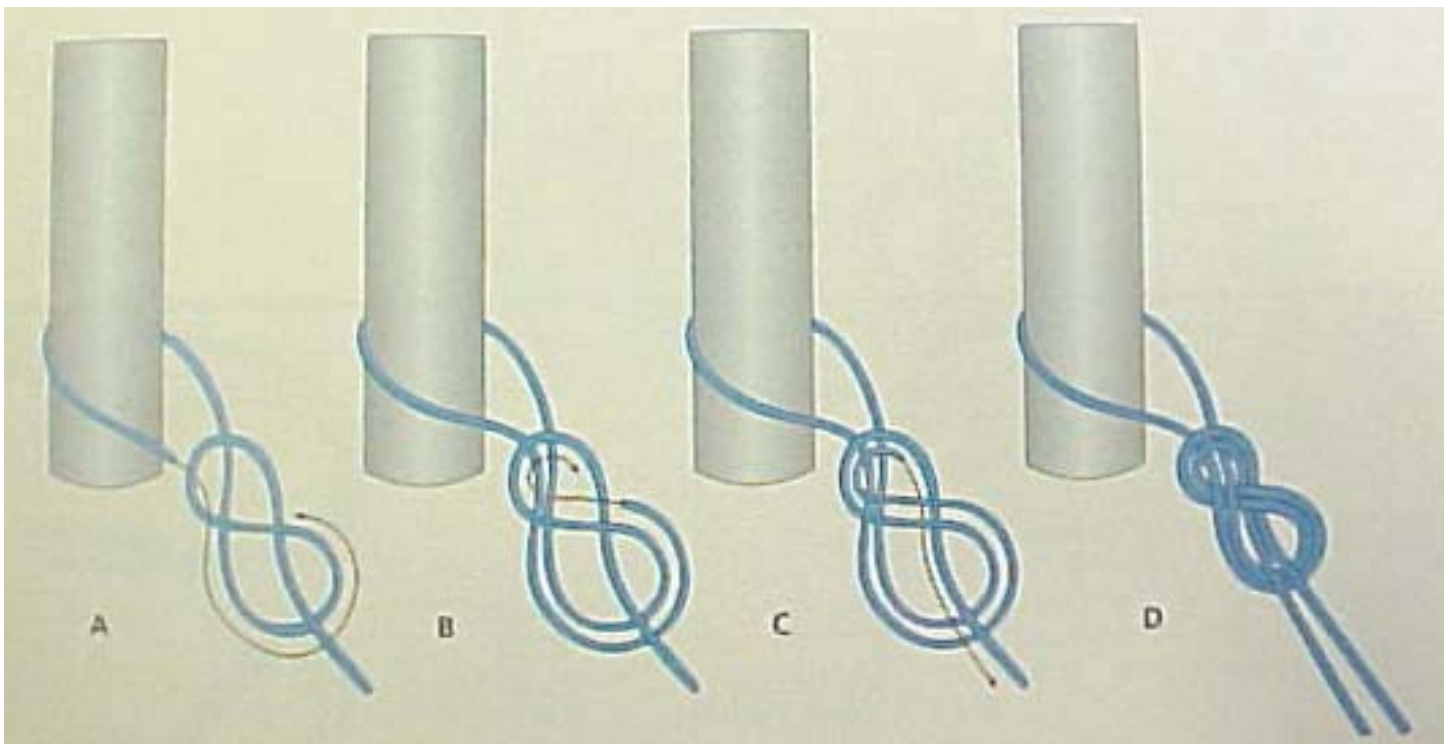


Photo Courtesy of:
Confined Space and Structural Rope Rescue
Roop, Vines, and Wright
1998

Canine Team Coordinator

Submitted by Rick Klein

With the increased funding provided to the US&R teams for 2002-03, NETF1 has created the position of Canine Team Coordinator. Monica Barger has been selected to fill this position. Monica will take on the responsibility of managing our canine team resources to help maintain the high quality of canine search capability that NETF1 is noted for. She will coordinate NETF1 training, evaluations, and certifications for all of our canine teams for all levels from beginning to advanced levels. She will review our canine policies and procedures and propose updates as needed to keep current with the needs of our canine teams and address issues that impact our ability to deploy with certified teams. Please contact Monica with anything related to your participation with the NETF1 canine program. NETF1 congratulates Monica on her new position! Monica can be reached by e-mail at roanoak@inetnebr.com

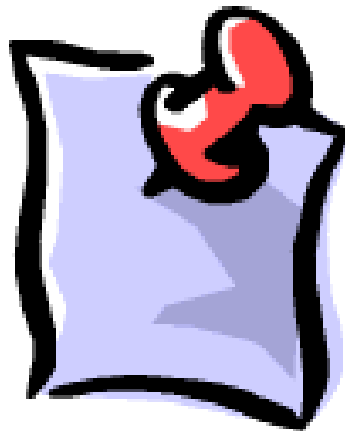


Notice

Newsletter Going Quarterly

Submitted by Rick Klein

Effective January 1, 2003 the Canine Newsletter is moving to a quarterly schedule. It will now be published in March, June, September, and December. Monica Barger is in charge of the development of the newsletter and will always be soliciting information and articles. Please forward your ideas and news articles to Monica and she will work to get you published! You can find the newsletter on the NETF1 website at: <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/fire/usar/canine/index.htm>. The web version of the newsletter is available to anyone so please feel free to promote NETF1's canine team by sharing this site with others interested in our canine program.



How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin?

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

Julie Marget

Lincoln Fire & Rescue

1801 iQ Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Fax: 441-8292

Phone: 441-8352

Address/

Phone #

Changes Also
contact Julie

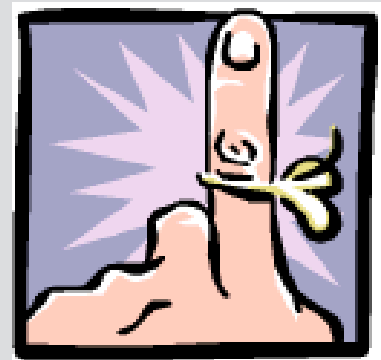


Remember to mail your
training logs to:

Susie Songster

1801 "Q" Street

Lincoln, NE 68508



2003 California Test Schedule

Courtesy of Dog Talk, December 2002, Volume 5, Number 5

| | |
|---------------|---|
| January 18-19 | San Diego Area (SoCal)†† Apps. Due no later than 12/9/02 |
| March 20-21 | San Francisco Bay Area (NoCal)†† Apps. Due no later than†2/17/03 |
| June 21-22 | Los Angeles County Area (SoCal)† Apps. Due no later than†5/12/03 |
| Sept 20-21 | Orange County Area (SoCal)†† Apps. Due no later than†8/11/03 |
| December 6-7 | San Francisco Bay Area (NoCal)†† Apps. Due no later than 12/10/03 |

Applications, with a \$25 testing fee attached can be sent to:† Lynne Engelbert, 19327 Northampton Dr., Saratoga, CA† 95070-3330.† Checks should be made out to:† National Disaster Search Dog Foundation or NDSDF with CSSWG Account indicated on the ìmemoî line.

CA and re-certifying (CA & out-of-state) teams have priority with out-of-state testing teams welcome to fill remaining slots, if available. For information on California tests, contact:

Lynne Engelbert

FAX (650) 604-7051 or (650) 604-0994

Work ñ (650) 604-3112

Home ñ (408) 257-1784

Monthly Training Record Form On-line

Submitted by Julie Marget

You can now access the monthly training record form on the secured area of NETF1ís website. You can find it in the ìFormsî link after you access the secured area. All NETF1 personnel actively training canines should forward training records monthly to Susie Songster at Fire HQ, 1801 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508. Or you can Fax them to Susie at 402-441-8292.

Happy Holidays!

Nebraska Task Force 1 and Lincoln Fire & Rescue would like to wish all of our canine teams and friends of our canine program a happy holiday season. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Urban Search & Rescue program and especially to NETF1.

